

## Internet access in public and private schools

*The Internet, with its vast array of information, can broaden the learning resources available through schools by providing teachers and students with connections to remote libraries, schools, and government agencies. Information found on the Internet can broaden students' knowledge base, and having Internet access can prepare students for an increasingly technological workplace. Examining patterns of Internet access in schools may help determine how many students will be prepared to use this technology effectively in the future.*

- Between fall 1994 and 1997, Internet access in public schools increased from 35 to 78 percent. However, in fall 1997, 27 percent of instructional rooms had Internet access.
- In fall 1995, public schools were more likely to have Internet access than private schools (50 versus 25 percent). Additionally, public schools had a higher percentage of instructional rooms with Internet access than private schools (8 versus 5 percent) (see supplemental table 4-1).
- Public schools with a high percentage of low income students (71 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch) were less likely than schools with a low percentage of low income students (less than 11 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch) to have Internet access in fall 1997.
- In fall 1997, public schools with a high minority enrollment (50 percent or more) had a lower rate of Internet access than public schools with a low minority enrollment (less than 6 percent). Moreover, public schools with a high minority enrollment had a smaller percentage of instructional rooms with Internet access than public schools with a low minority enrollment.
- In both public and private schools with Internet access, teachers were more likely than students in these schools to have access to e-mail, news groups, resource location services, and the World Wide Web (see supplemental tables 4-2 and 4-3).

### Percentage of public schools and instructional rooms with Internet access, by selected school characteristics: Fall 1994-97

School characteristics	Percentage of schools with Internet access				Percentage of instructional rooms with Internet access <sup>1</sup>			
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>
Level of school <sup>2</sup>								
Elementary	30	46	61	75	3	8	13	24
Secondary	49	65	77	89	4	8	16	32
Percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch								
Less than 11	—	62	78	88	—	9	18	36
11-30	—	59	72	83	—	10	16	32
31-70	—	47	58	78	—	7	14	27
71 or more	—	31	53	63	—	3	7	14
Percentage of minority students enrolled								
Less than 6	—	52	65	84	—	9	18	37
6-20	—	58	72	87	—	10	18	35
21-49	—	54	65	73	—	9	12	22
50 or more	—	40	56	63	—	3	5	13

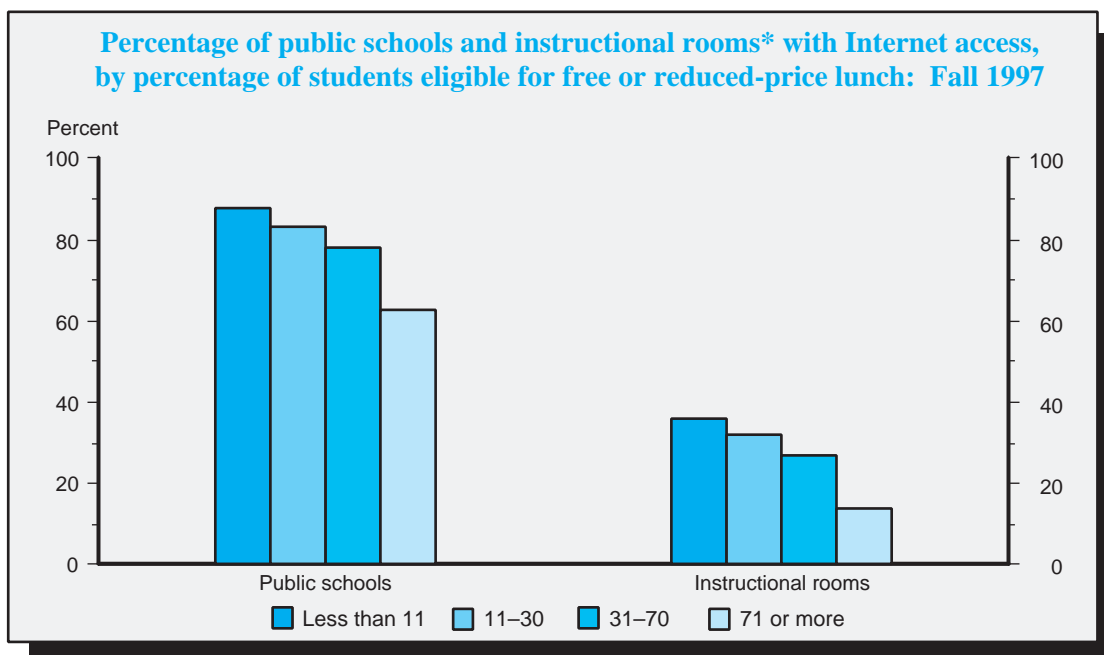
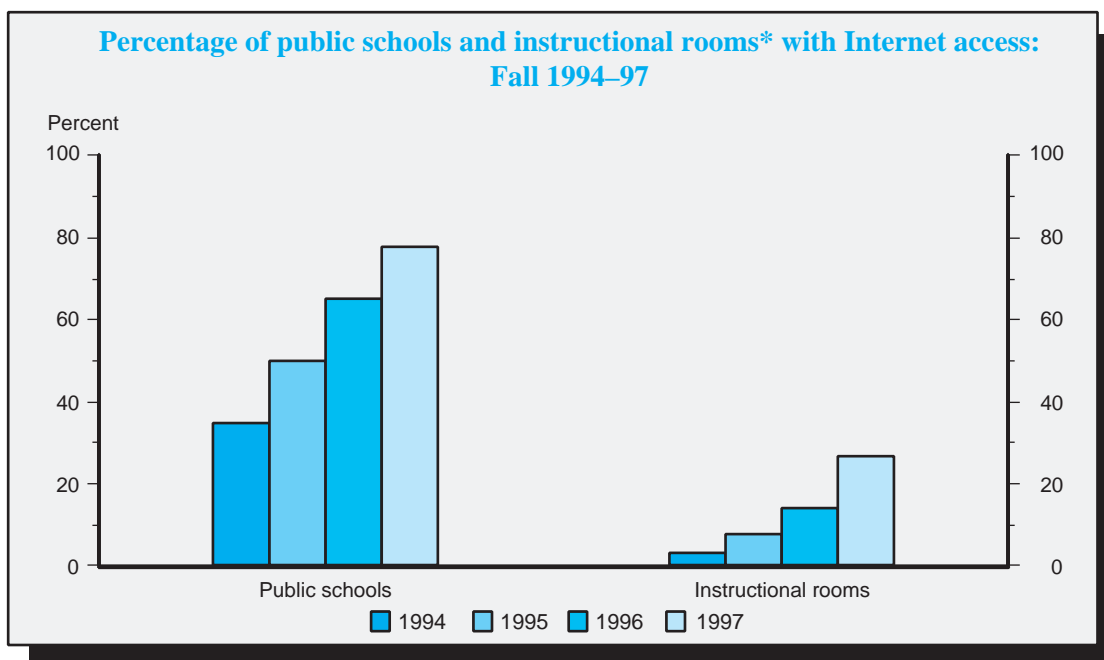
— Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the total number of instructional rooms in regular public schools.

<sup>2</sup> Data for combined schools are not reported as a separate level of school because there are too few sample observations for reliable estimates. Data for combined schools are included in the totals.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, "Internet Access in Public Schools," Issue Brief and Issue Brief supplemental table 1, February 1998.

## Internet access in public schools



\* Based on the total number of instructional rooms in regular public schools.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Advanced Telecommunications in U.S. Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, Fall 1996, 1997* and "Internet Access in Public Schools," Issue Brief, February 1998.

**Table 4-1** Percentage of schools and instructional rooms with Internet access, by control and level of school: Fall 1995

Level of school <sup>2</sup>	Percentage of schools with Internet access		Percentage of instructional rooms with Internet access <sup>1</sup>	
	Public	Private	Public	Private
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>
Elementary	46	23	8	3
Secondary	65	57	8	6
Combined	( <sup>2</sup> )	19	( <sup>2</sup> )	8

<sup>1</sup> Based on the total number of instructional rooms in regular public and private schools.

<sup>2</sup> Data for combined public schools are not reported as a separate level of school because there are too few sample observations for reliable estimates. Data for combined public schools are included in the public school total.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Advanced Telecommunications in U.S. Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, Fall 1996, 1997*, and *Advanced Telecommunications in U.S. Private Schools, K-12, Fall 1995, 1997*.

**Table 4-2** Percentage of public schools with Internet access and members of the school community with access to Internet capabilities, by type of Internet capability: Fall 1996

Internet capabilities	Available <sup>1</sup>	Member of the school community with access to Internet capability <sup>2</sup>		
		Administrative		
		Teachers	staff	Students
E-mail	90	88	92	35
News groups	57	91	85	43
Resource location services (e.g., Gopher, Archie, Veronica, etc.)	67	93	87	64
World Wide Web access (e.g., browsers such as Netscape, MOSAIC)	89	94	86	74

<sup>1</sup> Based on the number of schools with Internet access (65 percent of public schools).

<sup>2</sup> Based on the number of schools with the corresponding Internet capability.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Advanced Telecommunications in U.S. Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, Fall 1996, 1997*.

**Table 4-3** Percentage of private schools with Internet access and members of the school community with access to Internet capabilities, by type of Internet capability: Fall 1995

Internet capabilities	Available <sup>1</sup>	Member of the school community with access to Internet capability <sup>2</sup>		
		Administrative		
		Teachers	staff	Students
E-mail	94	74	91	39
News groups	69	79	78	55
Resource location services (e.g., Gopher, Archie, Veronica, etc.)	67	85	79	68
World Wide Web access (e.g., browsers such as Netscape, MOSAIC)	72	87	79	70

<sup>1</sup> Based on the number of schools with Internet access (25 percent of private schools).

<sup>2</sup> Based on the number of schools with the corresponding Internet capability.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Advanced Telecommunications in U.S. Private Schools, K-12, Fall 1995, 1997*.

**Table S4**      **Standard errors for the text table in *Indicator 4***

School characteristics	Percentage of schools with Internet access				Percentage of instructional rooms with Internet access			
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1994	1995	1996	1997
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Level of school								
Elementary	1.9	2.4	2.1	2.0	0.4	1.0	1.5	1.9
Secondary	2.4	2.7	1.8	1.7	0.6	1.0	1.5	2.0
Percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch								
Less than 11	—	3.5	3.6	3.3	—	1.6	2.9	4.2
11–30	—	3.6	3.1	2.8	—	1.8	2.0	2.3
31–70	—	2.9	3.2	2.4	—	1.6	1.8	2.7
71 or more	—	4.3	5.2	4.9	—	0.9	1.6	2.3
Percentage of minority students enrolled								
Less than 6	—	3.3	3.4	2.7	—	1.4	2.4	3.5
6–20	—	4.4	3.0	2.7	—	1.5	2.2	3.0
21–49	—	4.0	3.2	4.2	—	2.1	2.3	2.8
50 or more	—	3.8	4.6	4.7	—	1.0	1.5	1.9

— Not available.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Advanced Telecommunications in U.S. Public Elementary and Secondary Schools, Fall 1996, 1997* and "Internet Access in Public Schools," Issue Brief, February 1998.